

Workshop on the Development of an Experimental Global Drought Information System (GDIS)

Overview of Workshop Goals

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Among the key recommendations of a recent *WCRP Workshop on Drought Predictability and Prediction in a Changing Climate* is the development of an experimental global drought information system (GDIS). The timeliness of such an effort is evidenced by the wide array of relevant ongoing national and international (as well as regional and continental scale) efforts to provide drought information, including the US and North American drought monitors, and various integrating activities such as GEO and the Global Drought Portal. The workshop will review current capabilities and needs, and focus on the steps necessary to develop a GDIS that will build upon the extensive worldwide investments that have already been made in developing drought monitoring (including new space-based observations), drought risk management, and climate prediction capabilities.

This talk will review the basic goals of the workshop centered on the following three themes:

1. Assessment of our understanding of drought worldwide, including selected case studies;
2. Assessment of drought information needs and capabilities worldwide; and
3. Development of framework for moving forward on an experimental global drought information system, focusing initially on a few case studies.